



CURRENT NOTES AND COMMENTS

OF INTEREST TO THE TRADE.

The Copyright Action.

Inquiry has been made regarding the action taken in the courts to protect the copyright editions of Kipling's works in this country. From what we can learn, our readers are anxious to observe the law and respect the rights of Mr. Kipling and his Canadian publishers by not selling any pirated editions. But, as some doubt exists as to the exact legal position in which dealers find themselves who violate the law, we quote for their benefit the exact wording of the injunction granted by the High Court of Justice of Ontario in the case. It reads as follows:

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE.

Before the Honorable Mr. Justice Robertson, Tuesday, the twenty-fourth day of October, A. D. 1899.

Upon motion made this day by Mr. Lefroy, of counsel for the plaintiffs, in presence of counsel for defendants, for an order restraining the defendants, their servants, agents and workmen from selling, or causing to be sold, either as a whole or by varying, adding to or diminishing the contents of the original volumes, pirated copies or copies unauthorized by the plaintiff, Rudyard Kipling, the owner of the copyright in same, of the following books or any of them, namely, "Plain Tales from the Hills," "Soldiers Three," "The Light That Failed," "Departmental Ditties" and "Barrack Room Ballads," and from in any manner disposing of such pirated and unauthorized copies of the said books until the trial or other determination of this action and counsel aforesaid agreeing that the same be turned into a motion for judgment and the same coming on by way of

motion for judgment, upon hearing read the writ of summons and the affidavits of G. N. Morang, A. W. Vale and Bernard McEvoy filed and the exhibits therein referred to and the other proceedings in this action, and upon hearing what was alleged by counsel aforesaid, counsel for the defendants consenting thereto:

1. This Court doth order and adjudge that the defendants, their servants, agents and workmen be and they are hereby restrained, during the terms of the copyrights of the plaintiff, Rudyard Kipling, therein respectively, from selling or causing to be sold, either as a whole or by varying, adding to or diminishing the contents of the original volumes, pirated copies, or copies unauthorized by the plaintiff, Rudyard Kipling, of the following books, or any of them, namely: "Plain Tales From the Hills," "Soldiers Three," "The Light That Failed," "Departmental Ditties," and "Barrack Room Ballads," and from in every manner disposing of such pirated and unauthorized copies of the said books.

Judgment signed the 27th day of October, 1899.

(Signed.) M. B. JACKSON,
Clerk of C. & P.

(Signed.) A. F. MACLEAN,
Clerk Weekly Court.

It is well to note that, while the injunction names certain works of Kipling's, the copyright of which may not be infringed upon, yet the injunction covers all of Kipling's work's. The reason these were mentioned is because they are the books pirated editions of which are current in the United States. We have only to repeat, for the benefit of the trade, what we believe to be the future policy of English authors and publishers, namely, that they are going to strictly insist on their

rights in this market. For many years, as we know, American reprints were allowed to come in here, and some of them do still continue to come in. But conditions are changed. The English publisher and author have the power to keep them out, and they probably intend to do so all along the line. Now it is Kipling, to-morrow it will be somebody else.

We are not so badly off in this matter as our United States neighbors. Under their new copyright arrangement the only editions of many English books issued in the United States are high priced. Take the case of popular novels. The United States publishers do not issue the cheap paper editions that all our Canadian publishers issue. The United States reader has either to buy the cloth edition at \$1.50 or \$2, or else go without. We have been advocating steadily in these columns for years an arrangement by which Canadian publishers would be encouraged to issue reasonably priced editions which they would push by advertisement or other efforts so that the dealer would be helped in his sale of books. We cannot see any other policy that would be so useful to the trade as this.

Free Text Books. Mr. J. J. Roberts, a member of the Winnipeg school board, writes to The Free Press opposing a local suggestion that the board should buy the school text books and supply them to the pupils free. Mr. Roberts is on the right track. He states some of the objections against the system, namely, that other cities which have tried it report the unwillingness of many parents to allow their